

# BEHIND THE METER



ORO VALLEY WATER UTILITY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Peter Abraham, P.E.  
Water Utility Director

The Oro Valley Water Utility (OVWU) takes water quality regulatory compliance very seriously. This has been demonstrated in the Utility's current compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead Service line Identification Rule. The EPA Lead Service Line Identification Rule mandates that the OVWU conduct a thorough inventory to identify and categorize service lines in both our OV Main and Countryside water systems that may contain lead.

This rule is part of the broader Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Revisions aimed at reducing lead exposure in drinking water, especially for children and vulnerable populations. Public Water Systems were required to complete and submit the initial inventory by October 16, 2024, then periodically update and report any changes. This ensures a current record of service line materials.

During a thirty-month period, OVWU staff completed an inventory of 21,922 service lines in both water systems. All inventoried service lines were determined to be non-lead materials and do not require replacement. The completed service line inventory was submitted to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on September 6, 2024, which was approved by ADEQ resulting in OVWU meeting the ADEQ compliance requirements.

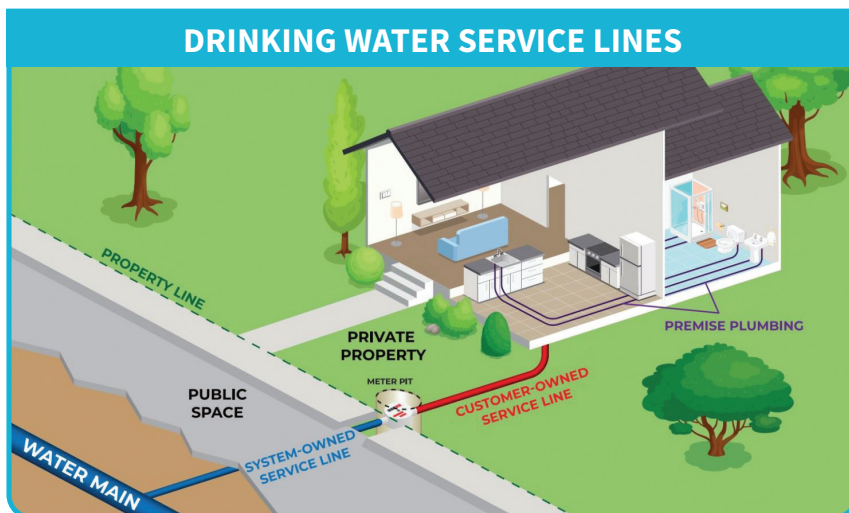
OVWU continues to provide high quality potable water to its customers by meeting or exceeding all local, state, and federal drinking water regulations.

*The illustration shown depicts the typical arrangement between the public water system and its connection to the customers service line. A combination of reviewing building records and field investigations ensured the Utility's compliance with ADEQ's Lead Service Line Identification rule.*

Looking forward,

*Peter Abraham*

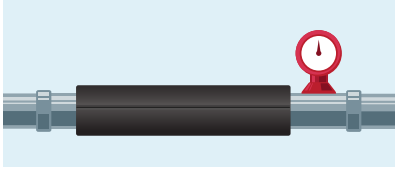
Peter A. Abraham, P.E. | Water Utility Director



## WINTERIZE YOUR PLUMBING TO PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

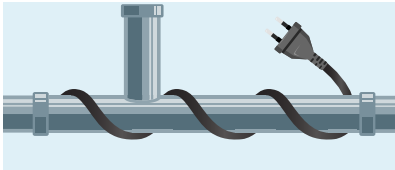
It is common for residents to overlook the winterization of water pipes, resulting in costly repairs. Even in the Southwest, water pipes and fixtures are susceptible to freezing.

### How to prepare your water pipes for the winter season



#### INSULATE PIPES

Use foam pipe insulation or fiberglass sleeves to cover exposed pipes, especially those in unheated areas like basements, attics, garages, and outdoor faucets and exposed pipes.



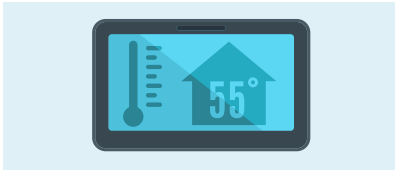
#### HEAT CABLES

For especially vulnerable pipes, consider using electric heat cables. These can be wrapped around the pipes to provide additional warmth.



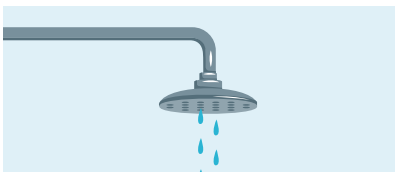
#### DISCONNECT HOSES

Outdoor faucets are susceptible to freezing. To avoid this, disconnect and drain any hoses connected to the faucets (swimming pools, cooling units, etc.). Remove garden hoses from outdoor faucets and drain them before storing them.



#### MAINTAIN INDOOR TEMPERATURE

To protect indoor piping from freezing, keep your home heated to at least 55°F, even when you're away.



#### CHECK FOR SIGNS OF FREEZING

Be vigilant for any signs that pipes may be freezing, such as strange noises or reduced water flow.

#### EMERGENCY MEASURES

If you suspect a pipe has frozen, turn off the water supply and gently warm the pipe using a hairdryer or heating pad. Avoid using open flames. **By taking these precautions, you can help prevent costly damage from frozen pipes during winter!**

### And don't forget...adjust your irrigation for winter!

To adjust your irrigation for winter, start by reducing the frequency of watering. Most plants need water less often in cooler temperatures. Lower the duration of each watering session to prevent waterlogging and monitor the soil moisture regularly to determine when plants need water. Additionally, consider any winter precipitation in your area, which may allow you to skip watering altogether. This adjustment helps maintain plant health while conserving water during the colder months.



Want to know more about your water use? Visit [www.orovalleyaz.gov](http://www.orovalleyaz.gov) and search *WaterSmart* to access and sign up WaterSmart, a free tool to increase awareness of water use, encourage conservation, and save money.

